

FACT SHEET

FINAL AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR THE FERROALLOYS PRODUCTION AREA SOURCE FACILITIES

ACTION

- On December 15, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final air toxics standards for area sources in the ferroalloys production source category. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are known or suspected to cause cancer and other health problems.
- EPA is issuing final standards for existing and new area sources in the ferroalloys production industry. A ferroalloy is an alloy of iron and one or more other elements, such as chromium, manganese, and/or silicon. Ferroalloys impart distinctive qualities to steel and cast iron and serve important functions during iron and steel production cycles.
- The final standards apply to electrometallurgical operations at each existing or new ferroalloy area source that produces silicon metal, ferrosilicon, ferrovanadium, ferromolybdenum, calcium silicon, silicomanganese zirconium, ferrochrome silicon, silvery iron, high-carbon ferrochrome, charge chrome, standard ferromanganese, silicomanganese, ferromanganese silicon, calcium carbide or other ferroalloy products.
- The final standards establish a visible emissions limit. The facility must demonstrate that the control device outlet emissions do not exceed 5 percent of accumulated occurrences in a 60-minute visible emissions observation period.
- The final standards also establish a limit for fugitive emissions from the furnace building due to electrometallurgical operations. The facility must demonstrate that the furnace building emissions do not exhibit opacity greater than 20 percent (6-minute average), except for one 6-minute average per hour that does not exceed 60 percent, during the 1-hour observation period.
- Facilities would also be required to submit one-time notifications of applicability and compliance status, annual compliance certifications and startup, shutdown, and malfunction reports, and keep records to demonstrate compliance with the rule.
- The final rule reflects EPA's determination that existing facilities in the Ferroalloys Area Source Category are currently well-controlled in terms of metal air toxics emissions as a result of State and national standards. The facility must operate and maintain the control device in accordance with the equipment manufacturer's specifications and monitor the control device to ensure compliance with the VE and opacity limits.

- EPA estimates that the only impact associated with the final rule is the compliance requirements (monitoring, reporting, recordkeeping and testing), which are estimated to be approximately \$3,600 per facility. The compliance costs on a facility basis are all projected to be much less than 0.1 percent of sales. Five of the ten facilities are small businesses. There is no significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 187 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.
- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies (GACT) or management practices rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- Further, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to (1) identify the toxic air pollutants that pose the greatest threat to public health in urban areas and (2) identify and list the area source categories that represent 90 percent of the emissions of the urban air toxics associated with area sources and regulate them to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy.
- EPA published the Strategy on July 19, 1999, in the *Federal Register* that included:
 - A list of the 33 air toxics that present the greatest threat to public health in the largest number of urban areas. Of these 33 urban air toxics, EPA has identified the 30 with the greatest contribution from smaller commercial and industrial operations or "area" sources, as defined in the Clean Air Act. (See <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/list33.html> for the full list.)
 - A list of 29 area source categories that contribute to the emissions of these 30 listed air toxics. Subsequent notices published on June 26 and November 22, 2002, added 41 source categories to this list of area sources and fulfilled the Clean Air Act requirement to identify and list area source categories for at least 90 percent of the emissions of the 30 “listed” (or area source) HAPs. The

Ferroalloys source category included in today's final rule is included in this list of area sources. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/urban/urbanpg.html>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final rule, visit <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t3pfpr.html>
- For further information about this rule, contact Mr. Conrad Chin of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1512 or chin.conrad@epa.gov.